

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Witek, I now have AM0228 in front of me, Senator. AM0228 is on page 580 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Madam President, member of this body, it is only six months until multicultural education is to be infused into Nebraska schools. Administrators and school boards still have not seen the guidelines which they must follow and adhere to or risk losing their accreditation. The Legislature should not tie accreditation to this program. I believe that's why LB 27 is being put forth, to help with schools that are just gearing up to comply with the multicultural bill that was passed last year and they would not have been ready by the '93-94 guideline that was set in 922. So the passage of LB 27 will help somewhat with their process of trying to comply with 922. This is an amendment to help them deal with the accreditation clause within LB 922. The idea of having to purchase materials, train teachers and prepare the lessons to incorporate multicultural material has some school districts worried that accreditation may be hard to reach. With such a new and controversial program, it is hard to justify schools worrying about accreditation regarding multicultural education when they should be concentrating on other subjects. If we embark on such a controversial subject, let the individual school board decide the extent to which the program can be implemented with the resources available. If there is to be input and control of the program in local communities, then I ask that the hammer of accreditation be taken away from the Department of Education. Supporters of LB 922 have said that local control will take place, then I ask those senators to take a step to ensure that local school boards will have control. I offer this amendment to repeal the original sections of LB 922 that give the Department of Education the power to take schools' accreditation away if they are not in compliance with state multicultural guidelines. I ask for your support of this amendment that would give local control to the implementation of multicultural education. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Withem, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam President, members of the body, I am